

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
receiving modeling parameters from a plurality of remote print shops;
and
for each print shop, remotely executing a modeling program using the
modeling parameters to generate model output data, wherein the modeling program is
configured to perform model hypothetical studies based on the modeling parameters.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the modeling parameters are received via the Internet.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the modeling parameters are received via a web based connection.
4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein the modeling parameters are received via an email.
5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the modeling parameters are received via the telephone.
6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the modeling parameters are received via a facsimile transmission.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of forwarding the model output data to each respective ~~the~~ remote print shop.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the modeling parameters include print shop organization information for each respective remote print shop.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the print shop organization information includes information regarding at least one of cell composition and the equipment available in each cell.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the print shop organization information includes at least one of equipment and labor resources available at each of the print shops, the capacity of the equipment resources, failure history of the equipment, repair history of the equipment, and the production costs per unit time used for each resource including equipment and labor and material parameters.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the modeling parameters include print job requirements.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the print job requirements include at least one of information regarding the number of individual items in the job; the number of pages in each item, job name, job identifier, batch size, number of batches and inter-process buffer size.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the model output data includes at least one of identification of a bottleneck process, turnaround time for the print job, optimal batch size, cost of the print job, and optimal parameters for the control policy such as a scheduling algorithm, job prioritization data and resource allocation information.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving performance data for equipment in each of the print shops;
saving the performance data to a database;
retrieving the performance data from the database; and
analyzing the performance data of each of the print shops to determine suggested print shop changes.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising forwarding the suggested print shop changes to each respective the print shop.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of determining suggested print shop organization revisions based upon parameters for a mix of print jobs and upon each the current print shop organization.

17. (Currently Amended) A system comprising a server including a modeling module that receives modeling parameters from a plurality of remotely located print shops and generates model output data, wherein the modeling module is configured to perform model hypothetical studies based on the modeling parameters.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein the modeling parameters include print shop organization information.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein the print shop organization information includes information regarding at least one of cell composition and the equipment available in each cell.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18 wherein the print shop organization information includes at least one of equipment resources available at each the print shop, the capacity of the equipment resources, failure history of the equipment, repair history of the equipment, the production costs per unit time used for each resource, resource performance fluctuations, difference in performance across operators and resource material related dependencies.

21. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein the modeling parameters include print job requirements.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the print job requirements include information regarding at least one of the number of individual items in the job; the number of pages in each item, job name, job identifier, batch size, number of batches and inter-process buffer size.

23. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein the model output data includes at least one of identification of a bottleneck process, turnaround time for the print job, optimal batch size, cost of the print job, and optimal parameters for the control policy.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17 wherein the server further comprises a design module adapted to receive print shop organization information and to generate suggested print shop organization revisions from each print shop.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17 wherein the server further comprises a reorganization module adapted to receive parameters regarding a change in print job mix at each the print shop and to generate suggestions for reorganizing each the print shop.

26. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein the system is adapted to receive the modeling parameters via the Internet.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26 wherein the system is adapted to receive the modeling parameters via a web based connection.

28. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 26 wherein the system is adapted to receive the modeling parameters via an email.

29. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 17 wherein the system is adapted to receive the modeling parameters via the telephone.

30. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 17 wherein the system is adapted to receive the modeling parameters via a facsimile transmission.

31. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17 further comprising:
a design module adapted to receive performance data for equipment and operators in each the print shop; and
a database for saving the performance data, wherein the design module is adapted to retrieve the performance data from the database and to analyze the performance data to determine suggested print shop changes.

32. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 31 wherein the design module is further adapted to forward the suggested print shop changes to each the print shop.

33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17 further comprising a reorganization module adapted to determine suggested print shop organization revisions based upon parameters for a mix of print jobs and upon each the current print shop organization.